

Application No. 10/057,364
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 14-24 have been prepared to recite the features of the present invention shown in Figs. 5 and 6, and described in the specification at, for example, page 26, line 4 to page 32, line 2.

In particular, new independent claim 14 has been prepared to recite an image forming apparatus administration system comprising an image forming apparatus and a relay server, wherein the image forming apparatus comprises: a transmitting section which transmits trouble type information to the relaying server, an accessing section which accesses the relaying server to obtain restoration work information based on the trouble type information, and a control section which controls the image forming apparatus to conduct an automatic restoration process in accordance with the restoration work information; and wherein the relaying server comprises a memory which stores the trouble type information transmitted from the image forming apparatus.

In addition, new claims 15-24 have been prepared to recite additional features of the image forming apparatus administration system of the present invention, as shown in, for example,

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Figs. 5 and 6, and as described in the specification at, for example, page 26, line 4 to page 32, line 2.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that new claims 14-24 be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-4, 8, 10, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 5,819,110 ("Motoyama"); claims 5, 7 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Motoyama and US 2004/0012807 ("Konishi"); claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Motoyama, Konishi and USP 6,618,162 ("Wiklof et al"); and claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Motoyama, Konishi and USP 5,878,256 ("Bealkowski et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to new claims 14-24 set forth hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 14, an image forming apparatus administration system is provided which comprises an image forming apparatus which is located in a first local network and is connected to the Internet through a first firewall server of the first local network, and a relaying server which is located outside the first local network and connected to the Internet. According to new

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independent claim 14, the image forming apparatus comprises: a transmitting section which transmits trouble type information to the relaying server, an accessing section which accesses the relaying server to obtain restoration work information based on the trouble type information, and a control section which controls the image forming apparatus to conduct an automatic restoration process in accordance with the restoration work information. And according to new independent claim 14, the relaying server comprises a memory which stores the trouble type information transmitted from the image forming apparatus.

With this structure, even if the image forming apparatus is connected to the Internet through a first firewall server, the image forming apparatus can obtain restoration work information from the relay server based on the trouble type information generated by the image forming apparatus and transmitted to the relay server.

The Examiner has acknowledged on page 6 of the Office Action that Motoyama does not disclose a relay server. For this reason, the Examiner has cited Konishi to supply the missing teachings of Motoyama.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that Motoyama discloses that communication relating to matters such as repairs which require quick attention should not be handled via the Internet. Rather, according to Motoyama, routine status reports,

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for example, are transmitted via the Internet, and repair matters are handled via direct communication over a telephone or ISDN line. See column 8, line 41 to column 9, line 16 and column 9, line 51 to column 10, line 6 of Motoyama.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that Konishi merely discloses a relay server that transmits data for printing to a printer and that receives data indicating job processing status (PS indicating the end of a first page, and so on in Fig. 11) from the printer. The data indicating job status can be requested from the relay server 31 by computers 21 and 51 and is transmitted to the computers requesting the information in response to the request, as shown in Fig. 11 of Konishi, for example.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that neither Motoyama nor Konishi, taken singly or in combination, discloses, teaches or suggests a system as recited in new independent claim 14 whereby the image forming apparatus comprises: a transmitting section which transmits trouble type information to the relaying server, an accessing section which accesses the relaying server to obtain restoration work information based on the trouble type information, and a control section which controls the image forming apparatus to conduct an automatic restoration process in accordance with the restoration work information, and whereby the

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relaying server comprises a memory which stores the trouble type information transmitted from the image forming apparatus.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that new independent claim 14, and new claims 15-24 depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguish over Motoyama and Konishi, taken singly, together, or in combination with any of the other prior art references of record, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

* * * * *

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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